

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 5, 6 and 7 have been amended, and Claims 1-8 remain pending after entry of this amendment.

Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Engstrom et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5850232), and claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art in view of Engstrom et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons provided below.

Firstly, according to amended claim 6, the validity test is used for determining whether the primitive of a drawing command can be written into a front buffer when a back buffer is full. However, Engstrom fails to teach this feature. Specifically, Engstrom merely discloses a method for **flipping** an image in a window using overlays, explaining that "while the application renders (writes) its image to the back buffer of the flipping structure, the overlay control in the display hardware reads the image in the front buffer" and "when the application has completed rendering the next frame to the back buffer, it flips the front and back buffer" (Abstract, Summary of The Invention, and Col. 7/Lines 22-29). Obviously, the Engstrom focuses on flipping an image in a window properly and the image is always rendered to the back buffer. Thus, Engstrom doesn't suggest using a validity test for verifying whether the primitive of a drawing command can be written into the front buffer when the back buffer is full.

Besides, the validity test (step (c)) in amended claim 6 is to determine whether the primitive of the drawing command overlaps a primitive stored in the front buffer and no yet displayed. Although the Examiner alleges that Engstrom has taught a validity test for checking

whether the display controller has completed a page flip, steps 472 and 474 in Fig. 12A of Engstrom are to compare the value for the current scan line with the value of the scan line at the last flip request. Accordingly, these two methods for testing are completely different in their objects and operations.

For any of the above reasons, the rejection to claim 6 should be withdrawn. As Applicants have respectfully shown that the citation fails to teach the independent claim 6, the rejections to claims 7 and 8, which are dependent on claim 6, should be withdrawn without prejudice for at least the same reasons.

Furthermore, regarding the rejection of claim 7, although Engstrom teaches that the flip control compares the value for the current scan line with the value of the scan line at the last flip request and the Examiner assumes that the last flip contains the maximum Y-coordinate of the primitive, this checking method is thoroughly different from the validity test disclosed by claim 7 of the present invention. Specifically, the validity test recited in claim 7 of the present application is to compare the Y-coordinate of the current scan line with the maximum Y-coordinate of the primitive of the drawing command. If the Y-coordinate of the current scan line is greater than the maximum Y-coordinate of the primitive, the drawing command passes the validity test and then the primitive is written into the front buffer. In contrast, steps 472 and 474 in Fig. 12A of Engstrom are used for checking whether the display controller has completed a page flip by comparing the value for the current scan line with the value of the scan line at the last flip request. According to the Examiner's assumption, namely that the last flip contains the maximum Y-coordinate of the primitive, in step 474, the current scan line will be compared with the last scan line (the maximum Y-coordinate of the primitive). If the current value is less than the previous value (the maximum Y-coordinate of the primitive), the display controller has completed a page flip since the last flip request (i.e. passing the test). This result is *contrary* to the result obtained from the present invention. Additionally, as shown in Fig. 12B of Engstrom, if the display controller passes the test, then the flip control stores the current time and scan line, and sets the display address (i.e. executing the page flip upon the flip request in step 450).

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Apparently, the maximum Y-coordinate of the primitive of the drawing command to be drawn will not be stored (i.e. the Examiner's assumption is not supported) and the primitive will not be written into the front buffer. From the above, the rejection to claim 7 should be withdrawn.

As stated above, since Engstrom fails to teach a validity test for determining whether the primitive of a drawing command can be written into the front buffer when the back buffer is full, the rejections of claims 1-5 should be withdrawn.

Having thus overcome each of the rejections made in the Official Action, withdrawal of the rejections and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Urcia', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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Date: February 2, 2004

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Serial Number 10/055,959

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